

the Middle East. We are calling on the US to work with us to restart that process immediately.

Egypt's historic role in planting the seeds of peace, our substantive contributions toward a Middle East peace plan, our proximity to the conflict, and the direct ramifications of belligerency to our nation, all make Egypt singularly positioned to help restart negotiations toward a two-state solution between Palestinians and Israelis—and with the full span of their rights upheld; prime amongst them is statehood to the Palestinians and security to the Israelis. But we need sustained international efforts.

Working together, Egypt and the US can broker an honest and open dialogue with Israel on concrete steps it should take to work towards peace, such as refraining from taking any further steps detrimental to the wellbeing of the population and the status of the city of Jerusalem, which was occupied by Israel since the 1967 War.

In turn, Cairo and Washington must impress on Palestinians the need to work for peace. While having the militants lay down their arms for good might seem a long way off, stopping further attacks is essential to move forward. Those factions rejecting peace efforts and seeking instability, whatever their name or affiliation is, have to be contained, including by undermining their international network of support and finance. After all, armed attacks and military operations, whatever their cause is, never serve the path towards peace and only sets back the ultimate objective of a two-state solution.

We must work to uphold and enable the Palestinian National Authority. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority, has a crucial role in furthering any future peace negotiations. His role as a national leader has been overshadowed by Hamas' recent conflict with Israel, yet he has all the credentials and willingness to return to the table for serious and meaningful discussions. Elevating Abbas in the eyes of the world will bring him back into his historic role as chief negotiator for the Palestinian people; after all, no one on the Palestinian side has worked more on the vision of a two state solution than President Abbas.

A strong and lasting peace in the Middle East may seem far off given the recent heightened tensions in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and Gaza, but that should still be the goal for the US, Egypt and, most importantly, Israelis and the Palestinians.

We must continue to march forward toward peace, or we risk continuing to suffer with this vicious cycle of despair and bloodshed.

The continued partnership between Egypt and the United States in peace efforts is a crucial cornerstone to achieving peace in the Middle East. It is indeed no coincidence that the latest ceasefire was declared mere hours after President Biden called President Al-Sisi. When it comes to giving peace a chance in the Middle East, Washington and Cairo must continue to work together as peacemakers and arbiters.

HONORING MERCADO ON FIFTH FOR WINNING THE 2020 GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN PROJECT AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mercado on Fifth for its effort in aid-

ing small businesses and fostering cultural pride in the Quad Cities. The organization received the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for the incredible work they have done in the community.

Every Friday evening, Mercado on Fifth hosts market events where families come from all around the Quad Cities to enjoy Latin food, music and art. These inclusive events bring neighbors together to celebrate culture and community in the Quad Cities. Additionally, Mercado has served as a resource for aspiring entrepreneurs by offering free small business workshops in partnership with the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Western Illinois University. These events also host several nonprofit organizations that have provided educational and outreach materials to local families. I want to thank and honor Mercado on Fifth for their commitment to bringing people together and for their continued service to the Moline community.

It is because of community organizations like Mercado on Fifth that make me proud to represent Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Mercado on Fifth for being awarded the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for their efforts in the community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MR. RUSSELL YOUNG

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Mr. Russell Young, who passed away on July 23, 2021.

Mr. Young was raised in the Brewer Community of Lee County and graduated from Shannon High School in 1954. From there, he attended Mississippi State University and served 10 years in the United States Air Force. Following his service, Mr. Young worked as a paper salesman till his retirement.

Mr. Young is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbara Young, his two daughters, his four grandchildren, and his 4 great-grandchildren. Along with his three sisters, his two brothers, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Young was a longtime member of Calvary Baptist Church in Tupelo and will be dearly missed by all.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF NEVADA

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 25th anniversary of Lutheran Social Services of Nevada (LSSN), who serves our southern Nevada community.

Throughout their 25 years of service, LSSN has provided help to more than 383,231 Las Vegans in need.

What began as humble means of helping the community in 1985, in the form of a food

pantry and clothing closet, LSSN has grown to an immense operation serving a multitude of southern Nevadans over the last 25 years that are low-income, at-risk of homelessness, homeless, families with or without children, youth, veterans, people with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Despite the uncertainty and unprecedented challenges of the last 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, LSSN found further ways to redouble their efforts to the community by distributing more than 770,596 pounds of food through their DigiMart Food Pantry to more than 62,840 people. This is nearly three times as many of Las Vegans they have served through the pantry prior to the pandemic. Additionally, LSSN provided rental assistance and rapid rehousing resources to 167 households in need. This allowed those families to remain or become sheltered in the midst of a pandemic ravaging our Las Vegas community and economy. Finally, LSSN served more than 7,960 hot and well-balanced meals to seniors, while also teaching nutrition education and physical activity through Zoom and other remote means.

It was my honor to visit and tour the LSSN DigiMart Food Pantry in May 2021, as they unveiled an expansion of the facility from 750 square feet to 3,058 square feet. LSSN projects that this will allow them to serve an additional 5,000 families annually.

I am in awe of the way our Nevada entities and community have continually stepped up to serve through numerous crises, and that gratitude extends to LSSN. I look forward to witnessing their continued growth and success in the years to come, and I encourage everyone to join me in celebrating and honoring their 25th anniversary.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus and avid supporter of my district's vibrant Ukrainian-American community, with whom I join in proudly celebrating the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Always, but on this day especially, it is vitally important that the United States maintains its robust support for Ukraine's security, territorial integrity, and democratic future. I will continue to advocate for this support in Congress as I did earlier this year when I partnered with the bipartisan chairs of the Ukraine Caucus to urge appropriators to allocate robust funding for Ukraine as they crafted our annual spending bill. This necessary funding will help support Ukraine's democratic progress, counter Russian aggression, fight corruption and more. I will continue to work closely with my Ukrainian-American neighbors in Michigan's Ninth District to tackle these issues and others impacting Ukraine as both a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and as their representative in Washington.

It is truly an honor to celebrate this milestone in Ukraine's history with my Ukrainian-